RULES

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FOR THE

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

INTO THE

BAPTIST CHURCH

IN

Charleston.

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RULES

For the admission of Members into the Baptist Church in Charleston.

1st. When a person desires to join the Church, this desire shall be made known to the Pastor a sufficient length of time before the communion season, to allow of conversation and acquaintance; and for further satisfaction, the Pastor may appoint the deacons, or any other of the brethren he may think proper, to visit the Candidate, for the purpose of obtaining all needful information concerning his or her experience and faith, character and life.

2d. The Pastor, and those he may have sent to visit and converse with the Candidate, shall meet together, at such time and place as he may appoint, to consider the qualification of the Candidate, and after which conference, the Pastor shall give such advice to each as may appear suitable. In the mean time, any of the members may visit the Candidate or Candidates, for the purpose of forming acquaintance, and obtaining fellowship, before the period of their reception into the Church.

3d. If the Candidate or Candidates be thought to possess those qualifications which may entitle them to a participation of the privileges of God's house, they shall appear before the Church;

which (as it is a garden enclosed) shall be privately convened for the said purpose, and none but the members to be present, and each Candidate will then relate the reason of his or her hope, and give such answers to questions respecting their Christian knowledge, repentance and faith, as may afford consistent and rational evidence of a gracious state; after which, satisfaction being obtained, they shall be baptized, and admitted to all the privileges of the Church.

4th. After each Candidate has been examined before the Church, he or she shall be requested to retire into the vestry, while the Church considers the case; which done, the Candidate shall be called in and the Pastor shall make known the decision of the church, which if favourable, they shall be kindly received; but if there should appear to be any deficiency in the knowledge and experience of the Candidate, and it may be thought advisable to wait some time longer, in order to get better informed, the Pastor will, in a kind, affectionate and encouraging manner, present this advice.

5th. In case of Candidates coming from the country, or under any peculiar providential circumstances, where the above course cannot be pursued, the Pastor, and those he may consult, must act as may seem most for the glory of God, and the welfare of the Church.

QUESTIONS

To be proposed to persons who are admitted to Baptism, and strict membership, in the Baptist Church in Charleston; together with the Church covenant.

Immediately before the administration of baptism, the person or persons to be baptized, shall give his or their assent to the following interrogations, which either literally, or in substance, shall be addressed to him or them, by the administrator:

"Is it your desire, and do you apprehend it is your duty, to be baptized in the name of the ADORABLE TRINITY?"

Answer. "I do."

"The scriptures requiring repentance and faith, with a profession of the same, of all those who are admitted to baptism, permit me farther to enquire: "Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, the Creator and Lord of the Universe; in Jesus Christ his Son, our Saviour, who for the redemption of mankind, became incarnate, suffered the shameful death of the Cross, rose from the dead, and is now exalted on the throne of God, at the right hand of his Eternal Father; and in the Holy Ghost, the third person of the sacred Trinity, who has become the sanctifier of the saints?"

Answer. "I do."

"Do you sincerely repent of your sins, committed against this glorious God; and trust in the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ, for pardon and Salvation?"

Answer. "I do."

"Are you determined to deny the sinful inclinations of your flesh and mind; to resist the temptations of the devil and the world; and to devote yourself with fixed purpose of heart, to the service of God, in holiness and obedience, the residue of your days?"

Answer. "I am."

"Do you consider yourself as brought under indispensable obligations to the Divine Goodness; and believe that you must answer to God for the deeds done in the body, at a general judgment of the quick and dead?"

Answer. "I do."

When publicly received into the church, they shall answer affirmatively to the following interrogations:

"Is it your desire to become a member of this church in particular, as you have already been admitted into the general number of professing christians, by receiving the holy ordinance of baptism?"

Answer. "It is."

"Do you believe the doctrines contained in the Confession of Faith, adopted by this church, or those ordinarily preached in it, are conformable to the scriptures?"

Answer. "I do."

CHURCH COVENANT.

The church having entered into a solemn covenant to God, and with each other, which they

think proper and necessary, to be approved of by all its members, I shall now call your attention to the serious consideration of it.

WHEREAS it is the incumbent duty of those who are favored with the dispensation of the grace of God, to embrace his covenant, acknowledge his government, profess his name, and unite together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel: We, the members of this church ~~whose names are hereunto annexed,~~ do ~~now,~~ as in the presence of the GREAT ETERNAL GOD, who knows the secrets of all hearts, and in the presence of *Angels* and *Men*, acknowledge ourselves to be under the most solemn obligations to be the Lord's; and we do solemnly covenant and agree:

1. That we will take the ONLY LIVING and TRUE GOD: ONE GOD in THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON and HOLY GHOST, to be our GOD.

2. We unreservedly and solemnly give up ourselves, both soul and body, and all we possess, to Almighty God; to be ordered, directed, and disposed of by him, according to the counsel of his holy will: And this we do, in an humble dependence on the grace of the Holy Spirit to aid and support us in these sacred engagements; and hoping for acceptance and salvation, through the merit and mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. We take the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, to be our rule of faith and practice, both in the great concerns of religion, and the general affairs of life; and *particularly* for transacting the business of the church.

4. We promise to maintain communion and fellowship with each other, in the public worship of God, according to the various ordinances of the gospel; "not forsaking the assembling ourselves to-

gether, as the manner of some is ;" but embracing all regular, convenient seasons for this purpose, as the providence of God shall permit. And that we will exercise christian forbearance and love, one towards another: Praying for and sympathizing with each other, in the various circumstances of life, and using every laudable endeavour to provoke to love and good works.

5. We promise individually, to pay a respectful regard to the advice and admonitions of the church, and to be subject to its discipline, as directed by the word of God, and conducted in the spirit of the gospel.

6. We promise to contribute in a reasonable manner, according to our ability, for the support of public worship, and the relief of the poor in the church; and to use our influence, to forward and promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world. That we will be careful to conduct ourselves with uprightness and integrity, and in a peaceful and friendly manner, toward mankind in general, and toward serious christians of all descriptions, in particular. That we will also pay a conscientious regard to civil government, and give it our support, as an ordinance of God.

And this covenant we make, with the free and full consent of our souls, hoping through rich, free and boundless grace, we shall therein be accepted of God, unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To whom be glory and majesty, power and dominion, everlasting. Amen.

" DO you approve of this covenant, and are you willing to unite in it, in order to accomplish the important purposes thereby proposed ?"

Answer. " I do approve, and am willing to unite in it.